



LINCOLN CHAFEE

U.S. SENATOR

RHODE ISLAND

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CHAFEE ANNOUNCES \$328,000 FOR GREAT GRASS POND

WASHINGTON, DC – U.S. Senator Lincoln Chafee announced that \$328,000 will be appropriated to the Great Grass Pond Forest Legacy project as part of the Fiscal Year 2004 Interior and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. The project will protect a 175-acre working forest in an area under high threat of development in Coventry, Rhode Island.

“Preservation of our valued ecological resources is among my highest priorities,” Chafee said. “The Great Grass Pond is one of Rhode Island’s most treasured bodies of water, and I am pleased that these funds will help to protect it,” Chafee continued.

“The hard work of Senator Chafee and the rest of the Rhode Island Congressional delegation is what secured these vital funds to protect forests and other wildlife habitat in our state,” said Janet Coit, director of The Nature Conservancy of Rhode Island. “It is inspiring to see the delegation’s commitment to protecting Rhode Island’s natural treasures, its beauty, and the health of our land, water, and people,” she said.

The property protected by the Great Grass Pond Forest Legacy Project is within the eastern edge of the Wood River Barrens Matrix forest, 45,000 acres of relatively unfragmented forest containing a mix of dry sandy uplands and riparian corridors. Conservation of this area is critical to support healthy populations of forest interior species, including the Louisiana water thrush and the wood thrush. The Nature Conservancy, working in coordination with the Town of Coventry and the Champlin Foundation, will contribute matching funding to the project.

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